

The BLUEMED INITIATIVE: objectives, achievements and future actions

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The Mediterranean sea: needs and opportunities

The Mediterranean Sea is a basin with unique bio-geo-physical characteristics and socio-economic features. It prominently contributes to the EU economy by: bearing 30% of global sea-borne trade with more than 450 ports/terminals, hosting the 2nd World's largest market for cruise ships, half of the EU's fishing fleet and a unique cultural heritage and natural patrimony (400 UNESCO sites).

It is facing prominent environmental challenges related to climate change, growing maritime traffic and pollution, overexploitation of fish stocks, invasions of alien species, etc.

At the same time, local biodiversity and deep sea resources, tourism, renewable energy production, etc. are major local opportunities for blue growth and jobs only poorly.

Such challenges and opportunities cannot be addressed/implemented by any of the EU MS individually but require a common and shared Vision and a Strategic R&I Agenda.

The BLUEMED initiative

The BLUEMED Initiative fosters integration of knowledge and efforts of EU member states of the Mediterranean Basin to jointly create new 'blue' jobs and a sustainable industrial growth in the marine and maritime sectors of the area.

It was a priority of the Programme of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union: “..., the Presidency will organise specific events and work with the Commission and Member States to define a Blue Growth flagship initiative for the Mediterranean”.

Work goes on under the Italian coordination with 9 other EU Member States (except Portugal and Belgium, all bordering the Mediterranean): Cyprus, Croatia, France, Greece, Malta, Slovenia, Spain and - since July 2014 –Portugal and, since May 2015, Belgium. The process is supported and facilitated by the European Commission (DG RTD, DG MARE).

BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: the process

Needs & Gaps

- May 2014 >> Set up of the initiative and roadmap;
- June-August 2014 >> **National mapping of R&I projects** (about 900!) via public/private stakeholders consultations; merging of information and **identification of R&I gaps & needs, opportunities and boundary conditions for their implementation.**

Vision

- September - December 2014 >> Sharing of the findings with relevant scientific communities and industrial associations at national and EU level. Set up of the **Vision Document** which was endorsed by the Italian Presidency of the EU Council and presented at the Competitiveness Council of 04-05 December 2014.

SRIA

- **February 2015** >> Identification of the Key challenges and goals & actions according to the drivers *boosting blue jobs & growth, knowledge transfer and SMEs participation*
- **April 2015** >> drafting of **BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).**
- **May-September 2015:** Sharing of SRIA with regional, national, EU and international public/private stakeholders;
- **October 2015 : Publication of SRIA** (updates will be made regularly every year) **endorsed by 14 EU Countries; 10 endorsed the Venice declaration on October 16, 2015)**

BLUEMED Vision & SRIA available at: goo.gl/ZbJTWH

BLUEMED Strategic R&I Agenda: 12 Key Challenges

Key enabling knowledge for the Mediterranean

- Mediterranean Sea ecosystems: services, resources, vulnerability and resilience to natural and anthropogenic pressures
- Mediterranean Sea dynamics: developing services in the field of sustainable adaptation and to climate change mitigation; and protection of coastal areas in the Mediterranean

Key sectorial enablers in the Mediterranean

- Innovative business based on marine bio-resources in the Mediterranean
- Ecosystem-based management of Mediterranean aquaculture and fisheries
- Smart maritime clusters in the Mediterranean
- Maritime Spatial Planning & Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

Enabling technology and capacity creation for the Mediterranean

- Smart, greener maritime transport and facilities in the Mediterranean
- Observational and geospatial capacity creation in the Mediterranean
- Multi-purpose off-shore platforms in the Mediterranean
- Marine and coastal cultural heritage in the Mediterranean: discovering, protecting and valuing

BLUEMED SRIA available at: goo.gl/ZbJTWH

Achievements: BLUEMED impact on Horizon2020

Some BLUEMED SRIA priorities were adopted by the EU commission, DG MARE and DG RTD, and included in their R&I programmes.

European Commission DG MARE

Call for proposals:

Blue Labs - innovative solutions for maritime challenges (May 31, 2016);

Blue Careers in Europe (May 31, 2016);

Blue Technology - transfer of innovative solutions to sea basin economies (Sept 2016)

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>;

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-careers-europe>

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/call-proposals-blue-labs-innovative-solutions-maritime-challenges>

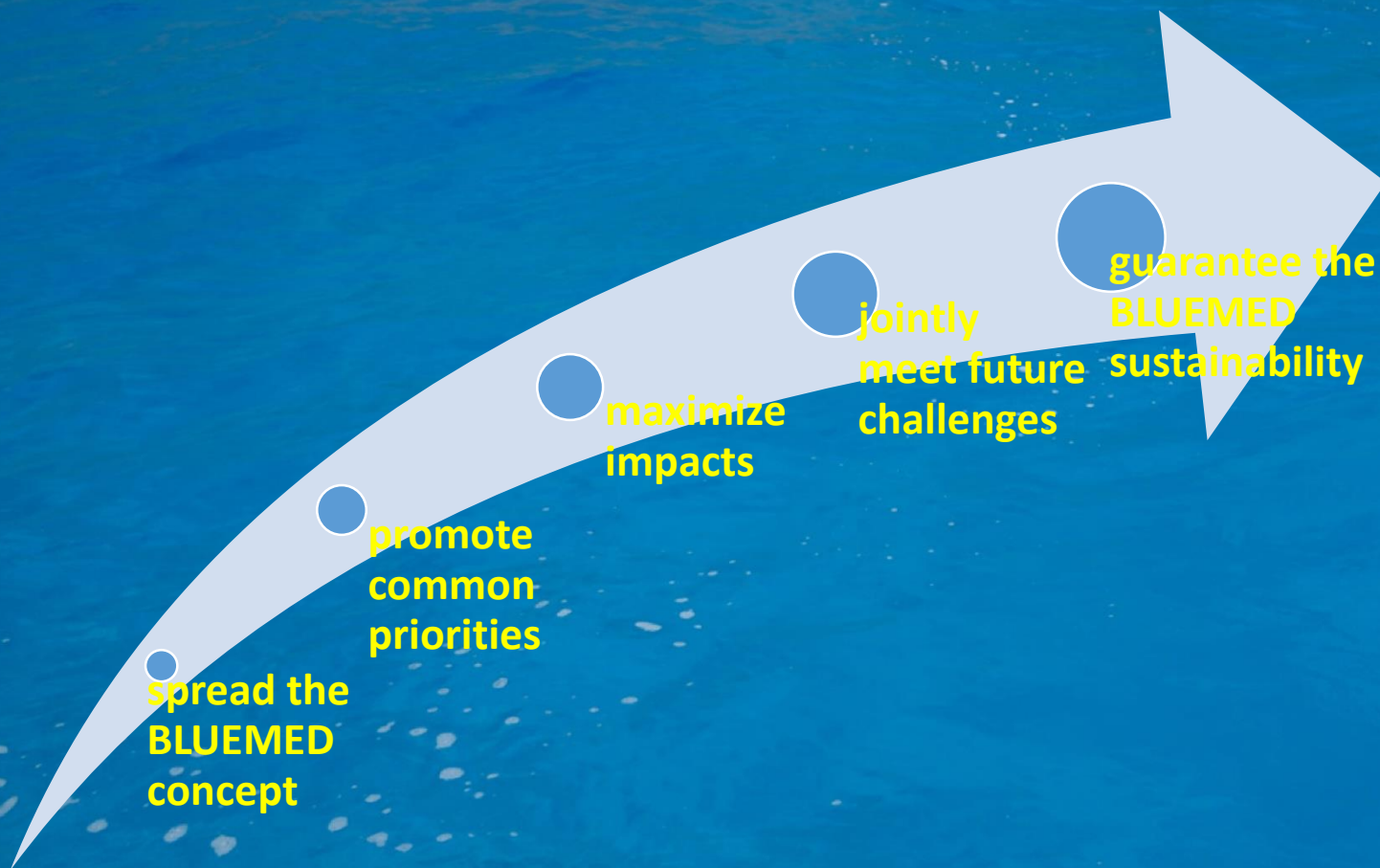
European Commission DG RTD

Six BLUEMED R&I priorities were included in the 2016-2017 WP of Horizon 2020 SC2 with € 43 M.

(http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2016_2017/main/h2020-wp1617-food_en.pdf)

Achievements: a BLUEMED CSA promoting implementation of SRIA in the whole MED

The BLUEMED CSA aiming at implementing BLUEMED SRIA in the whole MED is on place since October 1st 2016.



Current and future actions: promotion and sharing SRIA priorities in the whole MED

Some EU MS are adopting BLUEMED SRIA priorities in their national/regional R&I agendas, in line with the Venice Declaration (endorsed by 10 Countries; Venice, Oct 16, 2015). In IT, BLUEMED SRIA is quoted in the “National Plan for Research” and in some regional Smart Specialization Strategies.

Representatives of BLUEMED Strategic Board and of the “EU Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region” (EUSAIR) initiative are sharing R&I priorities and actions, in close cooperation with DG REGIO and DG MARE. BLUEMED Strategic Board contributes to the “Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the western Mediterranean” (WEST MED).

BLUEMED CSA and Strategy Board will promote SRIA in all Countries bordering the MED, in close cooperation with Union for Mediterranean (UfM). BLUEMED SRIA is quoted in the UfM declaration and road-map.

Final objective: to contribute to align/integrate funding strategies, R&I funds and infrastructures in the MED at regional, national and EU level, by avoiding duplication, improving the effectiveness in the use of resources and maximizing the leverage effects.

BLUEMED initiative impact

Knowledge

Management

Thank You!

SCIENCE
COMMUNITY

PUBLIC SECTOR/
POLICY MAKERS

ENTERPRISES

CITIZENS

Operation

Awareness

